

### REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

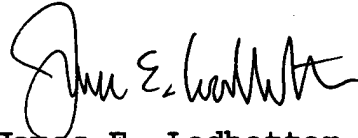
The Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication in the Office Action that claims 29-40 are allowed and that claims 4-14 and 19-26 are directed to allowable subject matter. The subject matter of allowable claim 4 and all intervening claims has been incorporated into claim 1. The subject matter of allowable claim 20 and all intervening claims has been incorporated into base claim 15. Certain claim elements have been amended so that all claim elements are now considered to be in non-means-plus-function format. Claims 2-4 and 16-20 have been canceled, and claims 5, 7, 8, 11, 21, 22, and 27 have been amended to depend directly from their respective base claims. Therefore, allowance of claims 1, 5-15, and 21-28 is warranted.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone

the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James E. Ledbetter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a stylized "L".

Date: January 26, 2006  
JEL/DWW/att

James E. Ledbetter  
Registration No. 28,732

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